

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /120 W
----- 112329

R 061620Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9926

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1490

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT SL

SUBJECT: RETURN OF PRESIDENT STEVENS

REF FREETOWN 1464

1. PRESIDENT STEVENS RETURNED FREETOWN AUGUST 4 FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN TRIP, SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED. EARLY RETURN APPEARS RELATED TO CURIOUS AFFAIR OF DYNAMITING OF FINANCE MINISTER KAMARA-TAYLOR'S HOUSE JULY 30. SPEAKING TO WELCOMING CEREMONY ON ARRIVAL PRESIDENT WARNED THAT GOVT WOULD DEAL DRASTICALLY WITH ANYONE TRYING TO DISRUPT OR INTERFERE WITH "THE PROGRESS OF THE NATION".

2. GOVT AUG. 2 ANNOUNCED IT SEEKING THREE PERSONS, ONE A FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER, ANOTHER A FORMER ARMY OFFICER, THIRD AN ARMY ENLISTED MAN, IN CONNECTION WITH THE "ASSASSIN-ATTEMPT" ON KAMARA-TAYLOR. FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER, ABDUL "BAI BAI" KAMARA, FOUND AND ARRESTED AUG. 5.

3. NO MENTION IN PRESS SO FAR OF DETENTION UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY (UDP) LEADERS FORNA AND IBRAHIM BASH-TAQI AND FORMER
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ARMY COMMANDER JUXON-SMITH (REFTEL), BUT THEIR APPREHENSION

WIDELY KNOWN. EMBASSY SOURCE CLOSE TO UDP HAS TOLD EMBASSY
THAT ATTACK ON KAMARA-TAYLOR RESIDENCE WAS IN FACT UNDER-
TAKEN BY UDP IN ATTEMPT REKINDLE OLD ANIMOSITY BETWEEN
KAMARA-TAYLOR AND VICE PRESIDENT/PRIME MINISTER S.I. KOROMA.
EVIDENCE ACCUMULATING, THEREFORE, THAT THIRD THEORY MENTIONED
REFTEL MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION OF INCIDENT.
OLSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, ASSASSINATION, PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTION, POLITICAL STABILITY, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, THREATS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974FREETO01490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740214-0829
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740872/aaaacjio.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FREETOWN 1464
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF PRESIDENT STEVENS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005